GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1758
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006
EMPLOYMENT TO WAR WIDOWS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a): the number of war widows, ex-servicemen and their dependents given employment during the last three years by the Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b): whether the KVIC has prepared any scheme for the employment generation of war widows, ex-servicemen and their dependents in rural areas;

(c): if so, the facts thereof; and

(d): the extent to which the scheme will help in providing employment to war widows, ex-servicemen and their dependents?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) does not implement any scheme for providing direct employment to war widows, ex-servicemen and their dependents. However, KVIC has been implementing a credit-linked subsidy scheme, namely, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), to assist entrepreneurs, including war widows and ex-servicemen and their dependents in setting up village industry units in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000 throughout the country. Under the REGP, ex-servicemen and women entrepreneurs (including war widows) are entitled to margin money assistance @ 30 percent for projects up to Rs. 10 lakh as compared with @ 25 per cent admissible to applicants of general category. Women entrepreneurs, including war widows and ex-servicemen, are required to contribute only 5 per cent amount as own contribution (as against 10 per cent for general category).

The number of projects set up by ex-servicemen under the REGP, during the last three years, is given in the enclosed Annexure. Such details are not maintained separately for war widows. KVIC has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) to extend the benefits of REGP to war widows, ex-servicemen, etc., in the AWWA fold and to encourage convergence of marketing activities of AWWA and KVIC through their respective outlets.